

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 02518 081611Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----018204 081652Z /23

O 081600Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3745

S E C R E T MADRID 02518

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST ONLY

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH THE KING: INTERNAL

POLITICAL SITUATION

1. I CALLED ON THE KING AT THE ZARZUELA PALACE MARCH 7 AT MY REQUEST FOR ONE OF OUR PERIODIC DISCUSSIONS. I FOUND THE KING RELAXED AND RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC AND REALISTIC ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION. HE FELT THAT IN VIEW OF THE TREMENDOUS AMOUNT THAT HAS BEEN DONE AND STILL HAS TO BE DONE TO BRING ABOUT DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN, THE EVENTS WHICH ARE OCCURRING SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS ALARMING.

2. HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF SATISFIED WITH THE ACTIONS OF PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ AND IN REFERENCE TO REPORTS THAT SUAREZ IS NOT IN GOOD HEALTH, SAID AS FAR AS HE KNEW, SUAREZ WAS BASICALLY IN GOOD HEALTH. SUAREZ WAS OVERWORKING AND IGNORED THE KING'S ADVICE TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF HIMSELF. THE KING MADE NO COMMENT ON THE RECENT CABINET CHANGES AND THOUGHT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING QUITE WELL. ON THE OTHER HAND HE COMMENTED UNFAVORABLY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF FINANCE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MADRID 02518 081611Z

MINISTER FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ AND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER GARRIGUES-WALKER. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME HE DONE SO AND HE SEEMS TO REGARD THEM AS UNNECESSARILY FREE WHEELING FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN AMBITIONS.

3. THE KING EXPRESSED PARTICULAR IRRITATION WITH THE PSOE. HE COMMENTED NEGATIVELY ON THE DRAFT PROGRAM

WHICH THE PSOE AND PSP HAD RECENTLY FORMULATED SINCE IT SEEMED TO PLACE A FUTURE COMBINED PARTY WELL OUTSIDE A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK.

4. THE KING ALSO COMMENTED ON TWO RECENT PARLIAMENTARY SKIRMISHES: ONE IN WHICH ALL THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD COMBINED TO DEFEAT THE GOVERNMENT IN A VOTE ON ITS HANDLING OF THE CABINET CHANGES; AND THE OTHER IN WHICH, ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEATEN THE LEFT OPPOSITION WHEN IT HAD REMOVED FROM THE MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL LAW A SPECIFIC TIME LIMIT FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. THE KING NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT WHILE IN THE FIRST VOTE FRAGA AND THE ALIANZA POPULAR VOTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, IT HAD IN THE MORE IMPORTANT MATTER OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS VOTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

5. THE KING TOLD ME THAT FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESS ON THE MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL LAW, PSOE SECRETARY GENERAL GONZALEZ HAD TELEPHONED SUAREZ TO COMPLAIN BITTERLY ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESS. SUAREZ HAD REPLIED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO OBSERVE THE RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC GAME AND THAT WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT HAD LOST ONE DAY, IT HAD WON THE NEXT. SUAREZ TOLD GONZALEZ THAT THE SOCIALISTS THREAT TO ORGANIZE STREET DEMONSTRATIONS IN PROTEST  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MADRID 02518 081611Z

OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESS IN THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS LAW COULD HARDLY BE CONSIDERED AS PLAYING ACCORDING TO THE DEMOCRATIC RULES. ACCORDING TO THE KING, FELIPE GONZALEZ DID SEE SOME LOGIC IN HIS REASONING.

6. THE KING ALSO COMMENTED THAT AS USUAL HE WAS SPENDING A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME WITH THE MILITARY. HE THOUGHT THAT THEIR STATE OF MIND WAS GOOD.

7. FINALLY I TOOK THE OCCASION TO EXPLAIN TO THE KING THE REASONS BEHIND OUR INVITATION TO THE SOCIALIST CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS DEFENSE COMMITTEE AND ANOTHER SOCIALIST DEPUTY TO VISIT THE U.S. FOR DISCUSSION WITH U.S. DEFENSE OFFICIALS ON DEFENSE MATTERS. THE KING OFFERED NO COMMENT. STABLER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KING, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MADRID02518  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASST SECRETARY VEST ONLY  
**Executive Order:** OA  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** P850101-2341, N780003-0341  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780393/aaaadaxx.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 53c797cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, ONLY  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, ONLY  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3406001  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONVERSATION WITH THE KING: INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, SP, US, (JUAN CARLOS I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/53c797cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014